

MAR 15 2006

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS

**CATHY A. CATTERSON, CLERK
U.S. COURT OF APPEALS**

FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

CLINT ESPINOSA,

Petitioner - Appellant,

v.

CRAIG FARWELL; et al.,

Respondents - Appellees.

No. 04-17103

D.C. No. CV-02-00113-ECR

MEMORANDUM^{*}

Appeal from the United States District Court
for the District of Nevada
Edward C. Reed, District Judge, Presiding

Submitted March 8, 2006^{**}

Before: CANBY, BEEZER, and KOZINSKI, Circuit Judges.

Nevada state prisoner Clint Espinosa appeals pro se from the district court's judgment denying his 28 U.S.C. § 2254 habeas corpus petition challenging his

^{*} This disposition is not appropriate for publication and may not be cited to or by the courts of this circuit except as provided by 9th Cir. R. 36-3.

^{**} This panel unanimously finds this case suitable for decision without oral argument. *See* Fed. R. App. P. 34(a)(2).

1998 jury conviction for sexual assault. We have jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2253, and we affirm.

Espinosa contends that the district court should have offered him the opportunity to stay his mixed habeas petition so that he could return to state court to exhaust his unexhausted claims. We review for abuse of discretion the district court's decision to grant or deny a "stay and abeyance" of a habeas petition. *See Rhines v. Weber*, 544 U.S. 269, 125 S. Ct. 1528, 1534-35 (2005).

No abuse of discretion occurred here. After determining that Espinosa's habeas petition was mixed, the district court gave him the opportunity to exercise his options under *Rose v. Lundy*, 455 U.S. 509, 510 (1982), and offered Espinosa an administrative closure procedure that was the equivalent of a stay and abeyance. Espinosa rejected that procedure and knowingly and voluntarily elected to abandon the unexhausted claims in order to proceed with the exhausted claims.

AFFIRMED.